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The Signal



Friday, December 17, 2004

Published for the Department of Defense and the Fort Gordon community

Vol. 24, No. 52

News UPDATE

Cell phone policy

Beginning Jan. 1, cell phones may not be used while driving on Fort Gordon, including the use of hands-free devices.

Military and civilians in violation of this order are subject to penalties, including loss of on-post driving privileges.

This policy is by direction of the Commanding General's Policy Memorandum No. 9.

Pharmacy hours change

Beginning Jan. 1, the new hours at the Eisenhower Army Medical Center Outpatient Pharmacy on Saturdays and training holidays are 8 a.m.-4 p.m.

The outpatient pharmacy is located on the second floor in EAMC and is currently open Monday to Friday from 8 a.m.-6 p.m. and Saturday from 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

ID card hours

Effective Jan. 6, the operating hours of the ID Card Section are: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday from 7:30 a.m.-3:15 p.m.; and Thursday from 7:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

For information call Sandy Huffman at 791-2914.

Last Signal

Today is the last edition of the *Signal* newspaper for 2004; the next edition will be distributed Jan. 7. The deadline to submit information for the Jan. 7 edition is noon Jan. 3. For information, call 791-7069.

MLK luncheon

Fort Gordon's annual commemorative luncheon honoring Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. is 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Jan. 13 at the Gordon Club.

For information, call Sgt. 1st Class Garcia Patterson at 791-4466/2014 or e-mail pattersg@gordon.army.mil.

Hypnotist

The Fort Gordon Dinner Theatre presents Gary Conrad, Master Hypnotist, at 7 and 9:30 p.m. Jan. 15.

Tickets cost \$10; a cash bar will be available. This show is rated PG-13.

Call 793-8552 for reservations, or go to www.fortgordon.com for information.

Lifeguard training

The Augusta American Red Cross offers lifeguard training Dec. 27 and Jan. 14. Both classes will be held at the Fort Gordon pool.

For information or to register, call 724-8481.

New regulation rules post roads

Driving and talking don't mix

Spc. Armando Monroig
Signal staff

The old axiom of "don't drink and drive" has been expanded on Fort Gordon to include "don't talk and drive" beginning Jan. 1.

Currently motorists on Fort Gordon caught using their cell phones while driving are being issued warnings by military police as a way of communicating the new policy to the public.

Warnings will be until Jan. 1. After that date civilians who are ticketed will receive a violation notice and could be fined up to \$50, or they may appear in Federal Magistrate court to challenge the ticket.

Military personnel who are cited for violating the policy will need to attend traffic court held at Royal Signal Hall during one of its scheduled 5 p.m. sessions.

These citations will be handled the same way moving violation citations are handled — drivers will be assessed points against their on-post driving record. After so many points, driving privileges are revoked.

A memorandum from Maj. Gen. Janet Hicks, U.S. Army Signal Center and post commanding general, dated Nov. 24 directed to all Fort Gordon military and civilian personnel, implements the

ban on cell phone use while driving on the installation.

It states penalties for violating the order may include removal from the installation and revocation of on-post driving privileges.

The only exceptions to this policy are for valid emergency purposes, law enforcement, medical treatment, or fire response duties, said Col. John Belser, staff judge advocate.

Individuals who violate the policy three times may have their on-post driving privileges suspended. However, if circumstances warrant, privileges may be suspended for a single violation, added Belser.

"The commanding general wanted everybody to have the opportunity to know of the policy and make plans to be able to deal with it," Belser said of the warnings.

Based on information Hicks received from the installation safety office, the new policy was created to increase safety for Fort Gordon motorists, he said.

Statistics obtained from the office of the staff judge advocate indicate that 2,600 highway deaths, 330,000 moderate to critical injuries, and 1.5 million instances of property damage per year are linked to cell phone use while driving.

See Phones, page 9

Ceremony honors fallen 202nd Soldier

513th Military Intelligence Brigade

A memorial ceremony was held Dec. 8 at Friendship Chapel to honor Sgt. Cari A. Gasiewicz, 202nd Military Intelligence Battalion, 513th Military Intelligence Brigade.

Gasiewicz, of Depew, N.Y., died Dec. 4 in Ba'Quebah, Iraq, when her convoy was struck by two improvised explosive devices.

Gasiewicz was born June 15, 1976 in Buffalo, N.Y. She entered active duty in May 1997 as an Army Counterintelligence Special Agent as well as an Arabic Linguist. She arrived at the 202nd MI Bn. in May 2003. Prior to arriving here, she served in Korea and attended the Arabic Language Training at the Defense Language Institute.

According to her fellow Soldiers, Gasiewicz impressed many Arabs with her ability to speak their language and understand their culture. She owned her own "Shisha Pipe" and Arab dress. She went out of her way to be everyone's friend. She quickly made friends with Iraqis and all local national workers who spoke Arabic. Gasiewicz loved children, especially the Iraqi children that she met while on missions. She even extended her kindness to the Jordanian truck drivers by diplomatically joining them for tea and coffee.

Just days before her death, Gasiewicz and a New York congressman were attempting to deliver a Christmas dinner with all the trimmings to 202nd MI Bn. Soldiers in Kuwait.



Courtesy photo

Gasiewicz was memorialized in Iraq as well as a service here Dec. 8.

She brought joy and uplifted those around her. She also smiled and laughed a lot. Many will likely remember her for her great smile, even when there was nothing to smile about. During the past year in Iraq when things got really rough, she liked to use her "down time" to sun tan which her "feel better," she said.

Gasiewicz was a motivated Soldier and always volunteered for everything that needed to get done. Wanting to be proficient on every weapon in the unit, she qualified on the rifle, pistol, M203, and M60 machine gun.

Gasiewicz is survived by her parents, Paul and Kathleen Gasiewicz, of Depew, N.Y.



Photo by Spc. Armando Monroig

Four star visit

Gen. Kevin Byrnes, Training and Doctrine Command commanding general, received a tour of one of the classrooms at Saltzman Hall Tuesday.

Byrnes took a tour through the Signal Center and installation training areas following a TRADOC senior leaders' offsite meeting held here Monday and Tuesday. As part of the tour, Byrnes was updated on Signal Center initiatives at the CISCO academy, and in joint communication equipment.

Army boosts up-armored Humvee production

Army News Service

WASHINGTON—An additional 100 up-armored Humvees per month could soon be heading to Iraq, according to Army officials.

Secretary of the Army Francis J. Harvey is looking to modify the Army's contract with Armor Holdings, Inc. of Jacksonville, Fla., which

currently produces 450 per month of the specialty vehicles, known as UAHs. Robert McCreedy, president of Aerospace and Defense Group for Armor Holdings, told Harvey the company may be able to put out as many as 100 more a month, officials said.

See Humvee, page 6

48th BCT prepares for Iraq rotation

Spc. Armando Monroig
Signal staff

The 48th Brigade Combat Team, part of Georgia's National Guard, is conducting part of its deployment preparations here.

About 450 Soldiers of the BCT began training on common tasks at Training Area 6 Tuesday as part of that preparation.

Brig. Gen. Terry Nesbitt, Georgia Army National Guard commander, visited Fort Gordon the same day to view the training being conducted.

Nesbitt came to visit the first of the 108th Armor, a guard unit that is going through its initial phases of mobilizing here.

The battalion-sized force, which is part of the 48th Infantry Brigade, will consolidate with the rest of the brigade in Fort Stewart after the holidays, said Nesbitt.

The 108th is a tank battalion equipped with M1A1 tanks that are being reconfigured for this mission, said Nesbitt.

See BCT, page 7



Photo by Spc. Armando Monroig

One of the 48th Brigade Combat Team's Soldiers participates in common task training at Training Area 6 Tuesday as Brig. Gen. Terry Nesbitt, Georgia National Guard commander looks on.

Fisher House decks the halls

Charmain Brackett
Contributing writer

About 25 elves helped decorate Fisher House for the holidays Dec. 5.

“We just want to help support the families that need to stay here,” said Cheryl Gullickson, as she tied gold bows to the garland on the handrail of the house’s staircase.

The holiday decorating party at the Fisher House is an annual event, bringing out a variety of volunteers.

Vanessa Stanley, Army Community Services director, wasn’t officially on duty Sunday, but like other Fort Gordon employees, she came out to help those families who won’t be able to be at home this holiday because they are at Fort Gordon with a hospitalized loved one.

The afternoon of decorating “speaks to the spirit of giving. Fisher House is all about giving,” she said.

Inside the home, garlands were draped on the handrails and a Christmas tree was placed in the living room.

Those volunteering outdoors had lots of lights and festive wreaths to hang.

Wearing a Santa Claus hat,

Col. Dan McFerran, chief of social work services at Eisenhower Army Medical Center, and Lt. Col. Richard Gullickson, EAMC troop commander, checked to make sure bulbs were burning before draping nets of lights on shrubs and trees.

Francisco Cruz, Fisher House director, said the annual Christmas decorating event is a way for the post to let families know that they are not forgotten.

“This is one of the ways command extends their thoughts to the families who are here,” he said.

Cruz said the holidays are a great time for those who would like to volunteer but cannot do it on a regular basis. He said people could bring a meal or donate toiletries or other needed items.

Fisher House provides lodging for families of military servicemembers while they are receiving treatment at the hospital.

Families of those injured in Iraq or Afghanistan may currently stay free at the house.

Financial donations are also important for Fisher House.

George Sheftall, a member of the Sovereign Military Order of the Temple of Jerusa-



Photo by Charmain Brackett

Lt. Col. Richard Gullickson (left) and Col. Dan McFerran drape lights over hedges outside the Fisher House Dec. 5.

lem, presented Fisher House with a \$1000 check Sunday. The organization has given \$3,000 to Fisher House over

the past six months.

For more information on donating to Fisher House, call 787-7100.

Christmas House helps more families

Sgt. Sam Smith
Special to the Signal

Christmas House served almost 60 more families and almost 175 more children this year when compared to last year.

According to Lynn Harshman, Christmas House program manager, they were able to increase the number of families served from 238 to 302 and the number of children served from 624 to just fewer than 800 by better coordination with the Fort Gordon drill sergeants.

“The drill sergeants came to us and said they could help us find our target audience,” Harshman said. “They went out and found the E-1s, E-2s and E-3s in need. They are our target audience.”

The families received their choice of three gifts per child plus a \$50, \$75 or \$100 gift certificate to the commissary depending on the size of the family. The families passed through a screening process to determine actual need. Active duty, National Guard, reserve, and retired Soldiers are eligible even if their children are not stationed at Fort Gordon with them. Then, if they qualified, they picked up their gifts at the Christmas House office on Lane Avenue on Dec. 6 or 7.

All gifts are paid for by donations and fundraisers like golf tournaments, car washes and hot dog sales. Most of the contributions come from the Fort Gordon community but the program also receives money and toys from off-post organiza-

tions.

“All of us at Christmas House would like to thank our contributors,” Harshman said, “and we look forward to working with them next year.”

Next year will be their 39th season of giving to military families on Fort Gordon. From what started as a teddy bear drive by a group of nurses in the mid 1960s, now, according to Harshman, gives something to everyone involved in the program.

“I think the program gives something to every segment involved,” Harshman said. “Whether it’s the people receiving gifts, or the Soldiers raising money, or the elves going out and picking out toys. It gives them all something else to focus on.”



Courtesy photo

Santa’s helpers

Soldiers of the 447th Signal Battalion contributed nearly \$2000 towards the Fort Gordon Christmas House Dec. 4. Lt. Col. Mike Allen, 447th Signal Bn. commander, along with drill sergeants, Staff Sgt. Joseph Leggett and Sgt. 1st Class Jerome Bankston, participated in a push-up challenge event Nov. 23 to raise the money. Each participant completed approximately 1000 push-ups in an hour to support Christmas House.

First responders join forces

Sgt. 1st Class Josh Hart
Special to the Signal

First responders from the Augusta area joined forces recently for a training exercise.

Elements of Fort Gordon's fire department and emergency medical service, and Medical College of Georgia's LifeNet Eurocopter EC 130 medical air evacuation helicopter responded to a simulated medical emergency scene Dec. 4 here.

The exercise was an opportunity to cross-train and improve cooperation and communication between all emergency service players by allowing combined skill sets to work together during the training scenario.

"This training is to familiarize anyone working around the helicopter of the safety issues that arise around the helicopter and to be more safe around them, and how to properly set up a landing zone for a helicopter," said Brad Tucker, flight paramedic and instructor for LifeNet.

"We are the provider that comes in to pick up anyone that is critically ill or injured in order to give them rapid transport to



Photos by Sgt. 1st Class Josh Hart

Fort Gordon emergency services personnel set up a landing zone during a medical response drill Dec. 4. The joint training was held with the Medical College of Georgia.

the Medical College of Georgia, and to give them the highest level of patient care possible. The LifeNet aero-medical evacuation helicopter system has several advantages including speed, high level of care and professionalism in the care given the patient. (Our goal is to) expedite the transport of the patient and also give the highest level of care possible," said Tucker.

"The training augments the provision of rapid, state of the art patient evacuation from accident scenes," said Herschel Zettler of Fort Gordon's EMS.

"The purpose is to assure that the Fort Gordon

emergency services community is able to interact with the surrounding communities. We train like this so that in the event of a single or multi-casualty event, we aren't just getting acquainted on the scene. The emergency response is a cooperative effort involving the medical component, law enforcement, fire services, HAZMAT units, incident command center and the 911center. Any or all of the components may be involved in a variety of mixtures. We are now involved in cooperative training to streamline the response," said Zettler.

Upon arrival at the scene, first responders practiced setting up the landing zone for the helicopter. Following touchdown, the flight crew conducted hands-on training of the aircraft and its state of the art life support system.

"Safety is really number one – if we do a safe job it is going to relate to our patients by keeping them safe and getting them a safe trip home. We want to deliver the best patient care available and do so in a safe man-

ner," said Glen Brown, LifeNet pilot. The intensive training enabled emergency workers to understand each others job.

"It is vital that all players speak the same language regardless of differences in prior training and service specialty. Their instincts are to protect lives and property but they have been trained to do it in slightly different ways, and in some instances with different terminology," Brown said.

"This is where the real value of this training lies. Cross training is the operative word - should someone get incapacitated, the pilots, firefighters, flight nurses, police officers, paramedics and emergency medical technicians will still get the job done," he said.

The ultimate value of improving the quality of pre-hospital care through the cross training is best summed up by Tamara Riley, LifeNet flight nurse.

"If you need us you are obviously having a very bad day," she said. "We will try to be the best part of that bad day. We will take care of you."



A LifeNet worker explained helicopter features and operations to Fort Gordon rescue personnel Dec. 4, during joint emergency readiness training here.

Citizen-Soldiers lend hand

Charmain Brackett
Contributing writer

Several Army Reservists and National Guardsman training here have devoted more than 100 hours to helping a non-profit agency develop a computer network. During November and December, the group sorted through donated computers, upgrading them when possible, to create a network at Floyd Head Start in Augusta.

The school provides educational, health and welfare services to more than 200 children and their families.

“We started in the resource room,” said Staff Sgt. David Andrews, a reservist from Fort Lewis, Wash., who headed the project “There were several donated computers they were hoping someday someone would put together.”

The project took several phases until it was complete.

The computers had to be sorted. Some of the computers were obsolete, but others could be upgraded and outfitted with Windows XP and linked together.

The main workday was Dec. 4 when about a dozen Soldiers visited the center to set up the network.

While the work day was scheduled from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., the Soldiers stayed late, leaving at 10 p.m.

Andrews said the Soldiers knew that

the project was close to being completed so they decided to put in “just five more minutes, then five more” until the project was finally completed.

Andrews said the job was professionally done and made the volunteers proud.

Floyd Head Start is one of 24 sites in 11 Georgia counties. Under the umbrella of the CSRA Economic Opportunity Authority, Head Start offers a range of services to more than 1500 preschool chil-

dren and their families.

Services include meals, educational activities and medical and dental screenings.

There are opportunities for family members as well. The organization offers training for the high school equivalency exam and a parenting program call the Fatherhood Initiative.

Andrews said the center would show off the newly completed computer work with an open house in January.



Courtesy photo

Reserve and National Guard Soldiers training here spent several days setting up a computer network for the Floyd Head Start in Augusta.

National Science Center wins creativity award for video production

The National Science Center has won a Creativity Award in the 2003-2004 Department of Defense Visual Information awards competition.

The National Science Center earned its Creativity Award for the production of “NSC Discovery,” a high-impact HDTV music video to be featured on the National Science Center’s Mobile Discovery Center van. The MDC travels the country presenting hands-on science programs to excite thousands of

students yearly about math and science, which is the NSC’s mission.

“NSC Discovery” is the first HDTV piece produced by the Army. Production was administered through the Production Acquisition Division, U.S. Army Multimedia Visual Information Directorate in Washington.

Students from Immaculate Conception School and various home school associations in Augusta volunteered their time and were the stars of the show.

The principal purpose of the DoD VI Production Awards is to recognize effective, purposeful use of the production medium, including achievement of communication objectives and appropriate use of this potentially powerful information and training tool. The DoD VI Production Awards Program is an initiative of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Public Affairs. The awards are conferred every 18 months.

A panel of communication

and production experts judged the 51 productions entered by the military services in the competition Oct. 24-28 in Washington. First, second and third place winners were selected in the recruitment, internal/public information, training, and documentary categories. Three productions from the all others category received creativity awards.

First place awards will be presented and the Production of the Year will be announced at an awards presentation ceremony that will be conducted early in 2005 at the Pentagon.

(From a National Science Center press release.)



Photo by Spc. Armando Monroig

CW5

Chief Warrant Officer 5 Mark Gratton, Warrant Officer Training Division chief, gets pinned by his wife Terri and retired Maj. Gen. George Goldsmith, U.S. Army Reserves, during a promotion ceremony hosted by Maj. Gen. Janet Hicks, U.S. Army Signal Center and post commanding general, at Conrad Hall Monday. Gratton is the first Army Reserve Soldier to hold an active duty CW5 position.

Viewpoint

Information, Opinions, and Commentary

CG sends...Holiday greetings, safety message

The winter holiday season is here, and I know all of you are looking forward to celebrating with family and friends.

I extend season's greetings to the entire Fort Gordon community and wish you all the very best in 2005.

Just as the holidays are a time for celebration, they are also a time for extra caution.

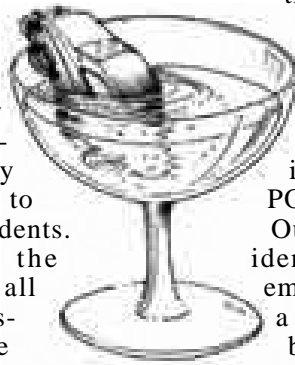
Increased numbers of travelers combined with wintry road conditions make this time of year particularly dangerous.

Major factors contributing to holiday accidents are excessive speed, fatigue, alcohol, lack of attention, and driving too far or too long without rest.

Privately owned vehicle accidents are responsible for a majority of Army fatalities every year and in the last few months, Fort Gordon has already lost four Soldiers to tragic traffic accidents.

Throughout the winter holidays, all drivers and pedestrians need to be alert to fast changing weather conditions and the unpredictable actions of others.

Remember always to wear your seat belt and ensure your passengers buckle up too.



**Don't Drink
And Drive...**

Most important, remember there is never an excuse for driving after you have been drinking.

I charge all leaders to integrate safety awareness into all phases of Exodus, to include safety briefings and POV inspections.

Our NCOs, especially should identify high risk drivers and emphasize to them the need for a safe-driving attitude. Safety briefing materials are available on the MS Outlook public folders under All Public/Fort Gordon/Safety.

The POV Tool Box/Risk Management guidance is located at <http://safety.army.mil/main.html>.

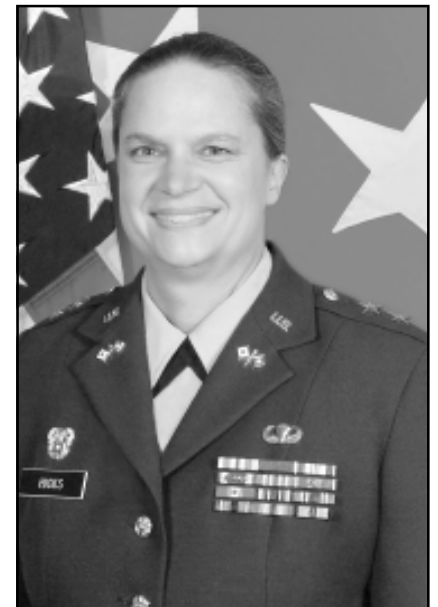
The safety film "Every Drive Counts" is shown daily at 7 a.m. and 5 p.m. on Channel 5 of the posts' closed circuit TV.

In the past year, our Army has sacrificed much to fulfill the ideal of "peace on earth and good will to all," but there is much more to be done.

It is my holiday wish that all members of the Fort Gordon community return from their travels healthy, refreshed and ready for whatever is required of us in 2005.

Best wishes to all for the very happiest of holidays.

Janet A. Hicks
JANETA. HICKS
Major General, USA
Commanding



Maj. Gen. Janet A. Hicks

Feedback...

What is your favorite holiday memory or pasttime?

By Spc. Nicole Robus



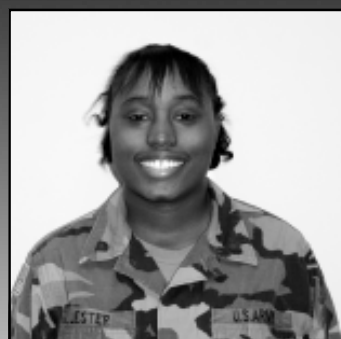
The best part about this time of year is celebrating the birth of Christ and giving him all the praise, glory and honor.

Chris Grubbs
Concessionaire at PX



Spending time with my daughters and seeing the smiles on their faces when they open their gifts.

Staff Sgt. Mark Jackson
DDEAMC



When I was younger, spending time with all the family members when they would all come home for the holidays.

Spc. Taterrian Lester
HHC, USAG



Being with my family and sharing the happy and sad moments from throughout the year.

Pvt. Jessica Castillo
Company E, 369th Sig. Bn.



Spending time with my family. Because we never know how long they're going to be around

**Airman 1st Class
Javier Flores**
388th Training Squadron



Snowsledding down the hill in a washing machine lid.

Edward Byers
Retired Army

2nd Louie

By Bob Rosenburgh

'Santa Louie'



North Augusta Elementary sends letters, CARE packages to Soldiers overseas

About 150 third grade students at North Augusta Elementary recently sent CARE packages, letters and postcards to Soldiers deployed to Iraq.

The following are random excerpts from the postcards.

Dear Soldiers, I have been worried about you. Thank you for sacrificing your lives for us. Sincerely, TyRael

Dear Soldiers, We all love you and it is sad that you don't get to hug your children. We appreciate what you have done for us. Hohoho Merry Christmas! Austin

Dear Soldier, I hope you get home. I think you need some things you can have fun with. I hope you don't get hurt in war. I appreciate you very, very much! Merry Christmas, Nicole

Dear Soldiers, Thank you for fighting for us. I appreciate what you are doing for us. I love this state and you. So this is my thanks for you. God bless you. Love, Kyle

Dear Soldier, Thank you for serving to make the USA free. It makes me happy. Your friend, Emsley

Dear Soldiers, I have been worried about you. I am glad you chose to go to Iraq for the U.S.A. Sincerely, Tori

Dear U.S. Soldier, I'm praying for you every day stay safe and kick their tails. Love, your new friend

Dear Soldier, I'm sorry that you can't be with your family. I hope they are treating you fairly. Follow your dreams and follow God and it will be a Merry Christmas. Northern

Dear American Soldier, You have done a good job in defending our country.

Note from the PAO

James Hudgins
Public affairs office

Several issues ago, an inappropriate cartoon was published on our 'Viewpoint' page.

The cartoon in question was too adult in content and not in keeping with our mission and objective of being a 'family oriented' publication.

There was a reason, but no excuse for this lapse in editing and quality control.

In meeting the deadline for this issue, not enough attention was given to the content of this cartoon.

Normally, a comprehensive review would have caught this oversight and corrected it before going to the publisher.

As the public affairs officer, I take full responsibility for this regrettable occurrence.

I apologize for any embarrassment or discomfort felt by any of our valued readers.

I will ensure that every effort will be made so that such an oversight will not recur.

The Signal

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Christmas happenings herald holiday season

Charmain Brackett
Contributing writer

It's a mix of science and tradition. "Tis the Season," this month's program at the DuPont Planetarium at the Ruth Patrick Science Education Center at the University of South Carolina Aiken, explores historical and religious holiday traditions of various cultures from the Christian, Celtic and Egyptian to the Roman, Jewish and Hopi.

The program blends in an astronomy lesson as well, taking a look at constellations and why there are seasons. The program also gives astronomical explanations to the star in Bethlehem.

The show will be at 7 and 8 p.m. today and Saturday at the planetarium, 471 University Parkway, Aiken.

Reservations are requested. Tickets are \$4 for adults, \$3 for senior citizens and \$2 for students in kindergarten through high school.

For information, call (803) 641-3769 or (803) 641-3654.

JAZZY CHRISTMAS

Augusta native and trombonist Wycliffe Gordon will present "Christmas in the Garden City" at 8 p.m. today and Saturday at the Imperial Theatre, 745 Broad St., Augusta.

Each show will be different. Guest artists include members of the Lincoln Center Jazz Orchestra and the Count Basie Jazz Orchestra.

Tickets range from \$13 to \$46 with a discount for purchasing tickets for both shows.

For information, call the Imperial Theatre at 724-8341 or go to www.imperialtheatre.com.

CHORAL MUSIC

The Columbia County Choral Society's Christmas music program will be at 7:30 p.m. today at First Baptist Church of Evans, on the corner Washington and Belair Roads. Tickets are \$8 for adults and \$6 for seniors and students.

The performance is called "Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silent."

For more information, call 650-2311.



Photo by Marla Greene

Mama kitty

Mama Kitty is a lovely, black domestic short hair about two years old. She's housetrained, and enjoys attention. Mama Kitty and others are available for adoption at the Fort Gordon Vet Clinic located at 500 North Range Rd. The fee is \$60 and includes microchip, vaccinations, and spay or neuter. Call or come by Monday to Friday, 8 a.m.-4 p.m., or call 787-3815.

Experts preserve Army experience

Spc. Junius Stone
Special to the Signal

The Army is currently experiencing manpower difficulties. Stretched to its limits in its commitments around the world and in fighting the War on Terror, good Soldiers are needed more than ever.

When an experienced Soldier leaves the service, the Army loses valuable experience it can't easily recover. So, the question becomes, how does the institution hold onto the experience that these Soldiers represent? That is the mission of the 79 Tangos, Reservist career counselors.

Master Sgt. Mark Kosobucki is a senior Reserve component career counselor assigned to Fort Gordon. It's his mission to help retain these experienced

Soldiers. But it's his passion to help Soldiers continue to get more out of the Army experience. "There's a lot of money (available). A lot," he emphasized, "For those who want to continue in the Reserves, the benefits are there. It's my job to let Soldiers know about them."

Soldiers who are leaving the service have to visit a Reserve career counselor, but they don't have to join the Reserves. They can ride out the remainder of their eight year commitment in the Inactive Ready Reserve, or IRR. But it's his job to inform and encourage Soldiers to consider the Army Reserve as a way to finish those years, even continue their Army careers. And for those who consider this option, there are flexible options a Soldier can try.

"Let's say you want to try another occupation," Kosobucki said, "You find a unit in the location you want to go that has a reservation for a particular MOS. You can try that one for a year. If you like it, you can stay in it. If not, you can leave, and just finish up in the IRR."

It's not just Kosobucki's job to offer flexibility to separating Soldiers who want a change. He can also offer Soldiers who may have reached the end of their rope in the active service, but want a chance to continue serving.

"The Army wants to hold onto their expertise, but because they may not hit a certain benchmark, they have to leave. This is especially true for technical types, like mechanics. They may love what they do, and be great at it, and

be good Soldiers, but may have neglected professional development. The Reserves offer another option, another way to continue their service. They get to keep benefits, retirement and get a chance to continue. And the Army continues to benefit from their experience and skills."

The Reserves offer many options for continued service, for those who may be open to those options. 79 Tango Soldiers are experts in informing Soldiers just what the Reserves offer to those who may be looking for options.

If you are interested in the Reserves, or would like to discuss the possibilities, contact Kosobucki or Sgt. 1st Class George Haughton at Darling Hall, Room 147, or call 791-1944 or 6531.



Photo by Sgt. Intisar Sabree

206th gets new CSM

Lt. Col. Robert Quinn, 206th Military Intelligence Battalion commander (left), and Command Sgt. Maj. Angel Chavez, 206th MI Bn. command sergeant major, laterally appoint Master Sgt. Samuel Zabrdac to first sergeant Dec. 7. Zabrdac replaces 1st Sgt. Timothy Durning.

Humvee

From page 1

"Once I was informed of the additional production capacity, I wanted to ensure those additional vehicles were going directly to our forces in Iraq," Harvey said.

An up-armored Humvee has steel-plate doors, ballistic-resistant windows and steel plating underneath the vehicle that offers better protection against bullets, rocket-propelled grenades and improvised explosive devices. The UAH weighs about 3,000 pounds more than the regular version.

The Army, which provides the UAHs to all U.S. forces in Iraq, aims to have 8,105 of the vehicles in its inventory by March 2005, officials said.

Holiday auction benefits many

Charmain Brackett
Contributing writer

Maj. Gen. Janet Hicks had some advice. “Men, I do not recommend you buying this as a gift,” said Hicks, Fort Gordon’s commanding general and chief of Signal, as she held up a copy of “Banish Your Belly, Butt and Thighs Forever.”

Hicks was serving as guest auctioneer for the annual Christmas auction sponsored by the Fort Gordon Chapter of Federally Employed Women at the Gordon Club Dec. 8.

Few bids were placed on the item, which was purchased by Col. Lori Sussman. Sussman was wearing a Santa Claus hat prompting Hicks to nickname her Mrs. Claus during the bidding.

“You’re looking a little lean for Mrs. Claus,” Hicks said.

About 40 people at the auction shared laughs and bought Christmas presents to raise money for Fisher House, Christmas House and Safe Homes of Augusta.

The auction brought in about \$870 last year, according to auction chairwoman Shirley Johnson.

“We don’t keep a dime,” she said.

Auction items included toys, Christmas décor, a handmade afghan, and jewelry.

Hicks gave each of the bidders a nickname so she could track the bidding wars.

“Light green sweater,” Hicks called on

of the bidders. “I’m going to change your name to glasses on head.”

Bidders had to be careful with Hicks as auctioneer.

“If you sneeze, I’ll go up to \$20,” she said during one bidding war on a tea set.

Jan McElmurray, a civilian employee here, said she enjoys attending the auctions with Hicks as auctioneer. “She makes things so much funnier,” she said.



Photo by Spc. Nicole Robus

Group of elves

Staff Sgt. Christopher Mallard (*kneeling, left*), project leader of BNCOC class 25Q 005-05, presents Vikki Adkins (*kneeling*), executive director of the Ronald McDonald House Charities of Augusta, a check for \$1,300 and more than \$3,200 in toys. A drive was conducted Dec. 3 to 12 at K-Mart on Washington Road, with Soldiers staffing a table outside the store evenings and weekends.

BCT

From page 1

He said one tank company will deploy with the battalion and the remainder of the Soldiers will be motorized – working out of Humvees.

Their mission, Nesbitt stated, is “the same as other combat units that have been deployed to Iraq – participating in security missions and assisting the Iraqi government to get its feet on the ground.”

The unit is primarily doing their Soldier readiness processing such as medical, dental and personnel issues, as well as weapons qualifications and common task training.

While at Fort Stewart, Nesbitt said they will conduct additional training such as combat maneuvers. Following their stay at Fort Stewart, the unit is headed to the National Training Center at Fort Irwin where they will be deployed to Iraq.

Nesbitt said it was originally planned for the 48th to do all of its deployment preparation at Fort Stewart, but because the 3rd Infantry Division is in the process of deploying from Fort Stewart to Iraq, there isn’t enough room for all of the 48th there.

The brigade, according to

Nesbitt, is currently preparing at four different posts: Forts Stewart, Jackson, Benning and Gordon.

“We are very appreciative of Fort Gordon and the other posts,” said Nesbitt. “It’s very helpful to the brigade and to the mobilizations process.”

Sgt. 1st Class Derrick Thompson, 2nd Battalion of the 307th regiment, a training support battalion at Fort Jackson, S.C., and a weapons maintenance CTT instructor during the 48th’s training here, said Soldiers from the 48th are looking good as far as their CTT skills.

He said the CTT training is a refresher for the Soldiers who most likely are already familiar with the tasks but might need to brush up on them before deploying.

Staff Sgt. Andrew Keene, Company A, 1st Battalion, 121st Infantry Regiment and one of those Soldiers going through the various CTT stations, said he is motivated about going to Iraq to do his job.

“I feel at this point that I am prepared,” said Keene. “Luckily we’ll get several more months of training.”

This is Keene’s third deployment but his first to Iraq.

He said the training he has received up to this point has been very good, and is essential to his unit’s mission in Iraq.



Photo by Jimmy Buffington

New Audies

Maj. Gen. Janet Hicks, U.S. Army Signal Center and Fort Gordon commander, inducts Sgt. 1st Class Michael Berry, Regimental Noncommissioned Officers Academy, into the Sergeant Audie Murphy Club Monday. Also inducted were Sgt. 1st Class Clifton Fields, RNCOA, and Sgt. 1st Class Ulysses Rayford, 551st Signal Battalion.

TF 1-21 Infantry lights Kirkuk for holidays

Sgt. Sean Kimmons
Army News Service

KIRKUK AIR BASE, Iraq – In an effort to spread holiday cheer and ease some of the loneliness Soldiers may have from being deployed at this time of year, Task Force 1-21 Infantry Soldiers decorated their headquarters area with holiday cards and lights.

“Being the holiday season, we wanted to actually have a holiday card lane here like we do back on Schofield (Barracks),” said Sgt. Maj. Errol Snyder, operations sergeant major for TF 1-21 Inf. “So, we asked every company to make a card and then we made one for the battalion.”

On Dec. 3, TF 1-21 Inf. held an official lightning ceremony to light up the five holiday cards. Each card is wrapped in holiday lights and includes a holiday saying with a picture.

An example of one is Alpha Company’s card which says, “Happy Holidays.” Below the saying is a picture of gators, the company’s mascot, pulling Santa Claus in a High Mobility Multi-Purpose Wheeled Vehicle over an Iraqi village.

“We took photos of all the cards and sent them back to Schofield to let them know that we’re keeping with the (commanding general’s) guidance of having holiday cards,” Snyder said.

Snyder hopes that one of the cards will win the annual holiday card contest.

Besides the cards, TF 1-21 Inf. extended their holiday spirit into its headquarters’ building with a Christmas tree and a replicated fireplace that welcomes anyone

who enters the building’s front door.

“An eight-foot Christmas tree and a fireplace makes (people) feel that they are coming into a friendly, cheery home,” Snyder said.

“We wanted to make our own little Christmas wonderland here,” Snyder said about all the holiday decorations.

The TF 1-21 Inf. holiday decorations may not be as grand or widespread as the ones sprinkled throughout U.S. Army, Hawaii installations, but to many of the

Soldiers it doesn’t matter.

“It’s a sense of home when we can actually enjoy these times although we are far away,” said Spc. Nathaniel Escobedo, a communications specialist with Headquarters and Headquarters Co., TF 1-21 Inf.

“It gives me a little warmth in the heart, every time I pass by them,” Escobedo said.

(Kimmons serves with the 25th ID (L) PAO.)



Photo by Sgt. Sean Kimmons

Spc. Nathaniel Escobedo, a communications specialist with HHC, TF 1-21 Infantry, gets a closer look at the holiday cards in front of the unit’s headquarters building Dec. 3 at Kirkuk Air Base, Iraq.

Phones

From page 1

Additionally, statistics show that motorists, who use cell phones while driving, are more likely to get into an auto accident.

These statistics also point to the fact that distracted drivers cause approximately 25 percent of auto accidents. In California talking on a cell phone is the leading cause of distracted driving accidents.

Currently two states, Washington D.C., approximately 25 U.S. cities, Fort Campbell, Ky., and about 40 countries have bans or restrictions on cell phone use while driving.

Capt. Jody Myatt, administrative law attorney and officer-in-charge of Fort Gordon’s traffic court, said

safety is the number one concern.

“You are distracted when on a cell phone,” said Myatt. “When you are driving you should be concentrating on your surroundings.”

He said even those who use hands-free sets for their cell phones are distracted because it is “a mental distraction – your mind is somewhere else when you should be thinking about what you’re doing when operating a vehicle.”

“We’re laying the ground work,” Belser said of the steps taken to implement this new policy and make sure people are aware of it, but added that, “ignorance of the law is not a defense or an excuse.



Photo by Capt. Jonathan Shoenholz

Happy Chanukah

Brig. Gen. Eric Schoomaker, Eisenhower Army Medical Center commander, helped begin the Chanukah festival at a Menorah lighting Dec. 7 in Augusta. A large seven-foot Menorah was lit, followed by Chanukah songs, a children’s choir, gifts for the children, food and more. The Menorah is on display at the Augusta Mall. The Jewish holiday of Chanukah, the Festival of Lights, commemorates the rededication of the Temple in Jerusalem following the Jews’ victory over Antiochus of Syria, in 167 BC.

Preparing for the holidays

Chap. (Capt.) Michael Zell
551st Signal Battalion

About this time of year everyone begins to reflect upon the holiday seasons.

Our culture tells us that the more we shop the happier we will be.

With eager anticipation, we are supposed to purchase gifts, prepare extravagant meals and welcome family and old friends to the warmth of our home.

It’s a picture that even Norman Rockwell would appreciate.

Now I don’t know about you, but life just doesn’t seem to match up to this ideal.

For some of us, this holiday season will be the first without a loved one.

For others, the holidays are filled with chaos as we try to save up enough money to get home, buy gifts or prepare the house for company.

There seems to be a terrible disconnect between what life is and what life is supposed to be.

We all live in this tension, and we all try to secure our part of the dream.

I know I may sound like the Grinch, but isn’t there something more important than all of this?

Something money can’t buy?

Galatians 5:22-23 states, “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.”

I went to the mall last week and saw Santa Claus.

Each and every store was packed with holiday bargains.

I went to all the major

department stores, but I didn’t see a single sign advertising, “ON SALE NOW!!: Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness and Self-control. (*While supplies last)”

The only way to package such an amazing assortment of gifts is within the human heart.

What I am suggesting is very simple.

Instead of looking out at what you can give this year, look in and see who you can be.

Take stock of what you have and where you stand with God.

Look at each of the gifts listed above and decide whether or not they would be valuable additions to your life.

Perhaps you need a bit more kindness.

Maybe peace is your biggest challenge.

God has purposed each and every person to be a part of his plan.

While a new tie or a diamond ring might be the perfect gift, imagine what a difference gentleness can make in a relationship.

A word of caution before I go.

None of these gifts can be purchased.

They come as part of the package when you allow the presence of God in your life.

We are the gift of God placed in relationships to bless other and bring about the will of God here on earth.

If we take the time to prepare now, walk with God and allow his purpose to work in and through our lives, we will never be left unprepared for the holiday season.

(This article also appeared in the Nov. 24 edition of the Signal newspaper.)

Drill sergeant spotlight

Name: Staff Sgt. Hugh Sullivan
Unit: Company C, 369th Signal Battalion
Hometown: LaGrange, N.Y.
Time at Fort Gordon: Two years

What do you enjoy about being a DS? The motivation of the Soldiers.

What do you want to accomplish in the Army? Just to have a successful career and to continue to have fun at it.



Staff Sgt. Sullivan

Community Events

Lifeguard training

The Augusta American Red Cross offers lifeguard training **Dec. 27** and **Jan. 14**. Both classes will be held at the Fort Gordon pool. For information or to register, call 724-8481.

Retirement ceremony

There is a retirement ceremony for Command Sgt. Maj. Paul Hibshman, Gordon Regional Security Operations Center senior enlisted advisor, at 1 p.m. **Jan. 7** at Barton Field.

Command Sgt. Maj. Lisa Brown will assume responsibility as the new senior enlisted advisor for the GRSOC.

For more information, contact Staff Sgt. Terrence Hayes at 791-6962.

College registration

Registration for Paine College classes here for the spring term will be held **Jan.**

6-10; classes begin Jan. 10. For information, call 793-2030.

Equipment service

All units are encouraged to turn in their grass cutting equipment to Johnson Controls for winter servicing.

Equipment must be clean and have all attachments.

Turn in the equipment at V-E Customer Service Center, Building 14601, with a completed DA Form 2407, maintenance request. The original equipment cost and year of purchase must be in the remarks block of the DA Form 2407.

For information, call Allan Marble at 791-6894.

Free tutoring

The Augusta State University Literacy Center offers free tutoring from 4-8 p.m. **Monday**s through **Friday**s (closed Wednesdays).

One-on-one tutoring is

available for all ages under the supervision of a certified teacher. Call 733-7043 for information.

Hypnotist

The Fort Gordon Dinner Theatre presents Gary Conrad, Master Hypnotist, at 7 and 9:30 p.m. **Jan. 15**.

Tickets cost \$10; a cash bar will be available. This show is rated PG-13.

Call 793-8552 for reservations, or go to **www.fortgordon.com** for information.

Tutors wanted

The Youth Challenge Academy here needs adults to tutor high school-level cadets in math, science, social studies, writing, and reading and literature in preparation for the GED test.

Tutoring is normally done from 6:30-8 p.m. Monday and Wednesday on the YCA

campus in Brems Barracks, but other schedules can be accommodated.

To volunteer or for information, call Mike Royal at 791-5997.

ID card hours

Effective **Jan. 6**, the operating hours of the ID Card Section, Military Personnel Services Division, are: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday from 7:30 a.m.-3:15 p.m.; and Thursday from 7:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. For information call Sandy Huffman at 791-2914.

Story hour

Woodworth Library is having a Pre-school Story Hour from 11 a.m.-noon each **Wednesday**. Story hour features a series of fun and encouraging educational activities for children ages 2-5. Volunteers are welcome. For information, contact Joyce Daniels or Jean Ballejo at 791-7323.

Holiday hours

Main PX, food court

The Main PX hours change as follows: Dec. 15-18 and Dec. 20-23, 9 a.m.-10 p.m.; Dec. 19, 10 a.m.-9 p.m.; Dec. 24, 7:30 a.m.-6 p.m.; Dec. 25, closed; Dec. 31, 9 a.m.-6 p.m. and Jan. 1 10 a.m.-7 p.m.

The food court will be closed Dec. 25.

PX concessions

The concessions hours change as follows: Dec. 24 and Dec. 31, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. and will be closed Dec. 25 and Jan. 1.

PXtra

The PXtra hours change as follows: Dec. 24, 7 a.m.-6 p.m.; Dec. 31, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. and will be closed on Dec. 25 and Jan. 1.

Theater

The theater is closed until Jan. 2.

Class VI

The Class VI hours change as follows: Dec. 24 and Dec. 31, 9 a.m.-6 p.m. and will be closed Dec. 25 and Jan. 1.

Gate 1 Shoppette

The Gate 1 Shoppette hours change as follows: Dec. 17-23 and Dec. 26-Jan. 1, 8 a.m.-9 p.m.; Dec. 24, 8 a.m.-6 p.m. and is closed on Dec. 25.

Gate 5 Shoppette

The Gate 5 Shoppette closes at midnight Dec. 24 and is closed on Dec. 25. It will re-open Dec. 26 at 7 a.m.

MCSS

The MCSS hours change as follows: Dec. 17-18, Dec. 20-23 and Dec. 27-30, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. and will be closed Dec. 19, Dec. 24-26 and Dec. 31-Jan. 2.

Sports & Leisure

Sports UPDATE

Bowling hours

Holiday hours at Gordon Lanes are as follows:

Exodus: 10 a.m. - normal closing times except for the following days. Normal closing times are 11:30 p.m.
Monday - Thursday, 1:30 a.m. Friday and Saturday, and 11 p.m. Sunday.

Dec. 24: 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Dec. 25: Closed
Dec. 31: 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.
New Year's Eve Party: 8 p.m. - 2 a.m.

For more information, call 791-3446.

Contest

The 2005 Army Entertainment Stars of Tomorrow is an Army level talent competition to take place at Fort Belvoir, Va., Jan. 17-24 and is open to active duty Army personnel. Prize money will be awarded to the installation for winners in each category. For more information, call 793-8552

Tryouts

The 2005 USA Express Army Touring Band is a top 40s touring show band open to active duty Army personnel. Generally composed of deployable Soldiers 18-25, this band tours remote locations and will perform for deployed Soldiers overseas Jan. 21 - mid May. For additional information, contact Steve Walpert at 793-8552 or by e-mail at walperts@gordon.army.mil.

Gordon Soldier gets coaching position

Following his successes at the recent 2004 US Taekwondo Union National Championships, Sgt. 1st. Class Kevin Williams, 67th Signal Battalion, has qualified to attend the Team Trials Training Camp as a member of the coaching staff, Dec. 27 through Jan. 7 at Fort Carson, Colo., and the U.S. Taekwondo Union's National Team Trials at the Olympic Training Center, Colorado Springs, Colo., Jan. 8. Williams is a former All-Army Taekwondo champion.

Bataan memorial march

The 2005 Bataan Memorial Death March is **March 20** at White Sands Missile Range, N.M.

Information and registration is available at www.bataanmarch.com. There is a limit of 4,000 marchers. The event is open to military (active duty, reserve, National Guard, ROTC, JROTC or retired) and civilian teams and individuals in either heavy or light divisions.

For information call (505)678-1256 or (505)678-1134, or e-mail bataan@wsmr.army.mil.

Hypnotist

The Fort Gordon Dinner Theatre presents Gary Conrad, Master Hypnotist, at 7 and 9:30 p.m. **Jan. 15.**

Tickets cost \$10; a cash bar will be available. This show is rated PG-13.

Call 793-8552 for reservations, or go to www.fortgordon.com for information.

447th Soldiers get unique view from mountaintop

Spc. Armando Monroig
Signal staff

The 447th Signal Battalion went on a mountain climbing expedition Nov. 19-21 at Mount Yonah in Cleveland, Ga., called the Initial Entry Training Mountain Excursion.

It was training in which the "Warrior Ethos met

spiritual fitness," said Capt. William Tripp, chaplain for 447th Signal Battalion.

The training took place on Mount Yonah, the same place the 5th Ranger Training Battalion uses to train Rangers during their mountain phase of Ranger School.

Thirteen Company B, 447th IET Soldiers took part in the event with six noncommis-

sioned officers assisting Tripp with the training.

This is the second time Tripp has taken a group of Soldiers to Mount Yonah; the first was in September. This was the first time IET Soldiers participated in the event.

The Soldiers set up camp at the base of the mountain and conducted night climbing and rappelling operations that

included regular rappelling and 'Aussie' style rappelling.

"The Soldiers were walking tall after that operation," said Tripp.

Tripp said having training events like this one is very important to the morale, courage, teamwork, esprit de corps, spiritual, emotional, and mental fitness of Soldiers.

"I believe its ultimate worth

has been thus far underestimated," he said. "If this event were to be broadened in scope, I believe its advantages and worth would be inestimable."

He said this type of training provides for a unique experience for the Soldiers and is cost-effective.

"The spiritual fitness and adventurous, warrior-ethos type training, combined with the fact that the cost is essentially nothing, provides a greater 'bang for the buck' than most any other activity I know of," said Tripp.

He said he'd like to see this as a brigade-wide opportunity for IET Soldiers, especially having witnessed the effect it had on them.

"I feel like I'm in the Army," Pvt. Ashley Scott said of the training experience, adding that she "really enjoyed the climbing."

Pvt. Marc Abels said it was "awesome - wish we could do more of it."

"It's a big confidence builder," said Pvt. Evelyn Boisvert. "You learn to trust your equipment and your buddies."

Tripp said this type of training provides an extremely effective setting for conducting spiritual fitness.

"Something about walking backwards into 90 feet of pitch blackness or hanging by two fingers on a rock no bigger than your thumb 200 feet above the ground can be quite conducive to taking an inventory of what you believe," he said.

(Some information in this story obtained from Staff Sgt. Jala Neufeld.)

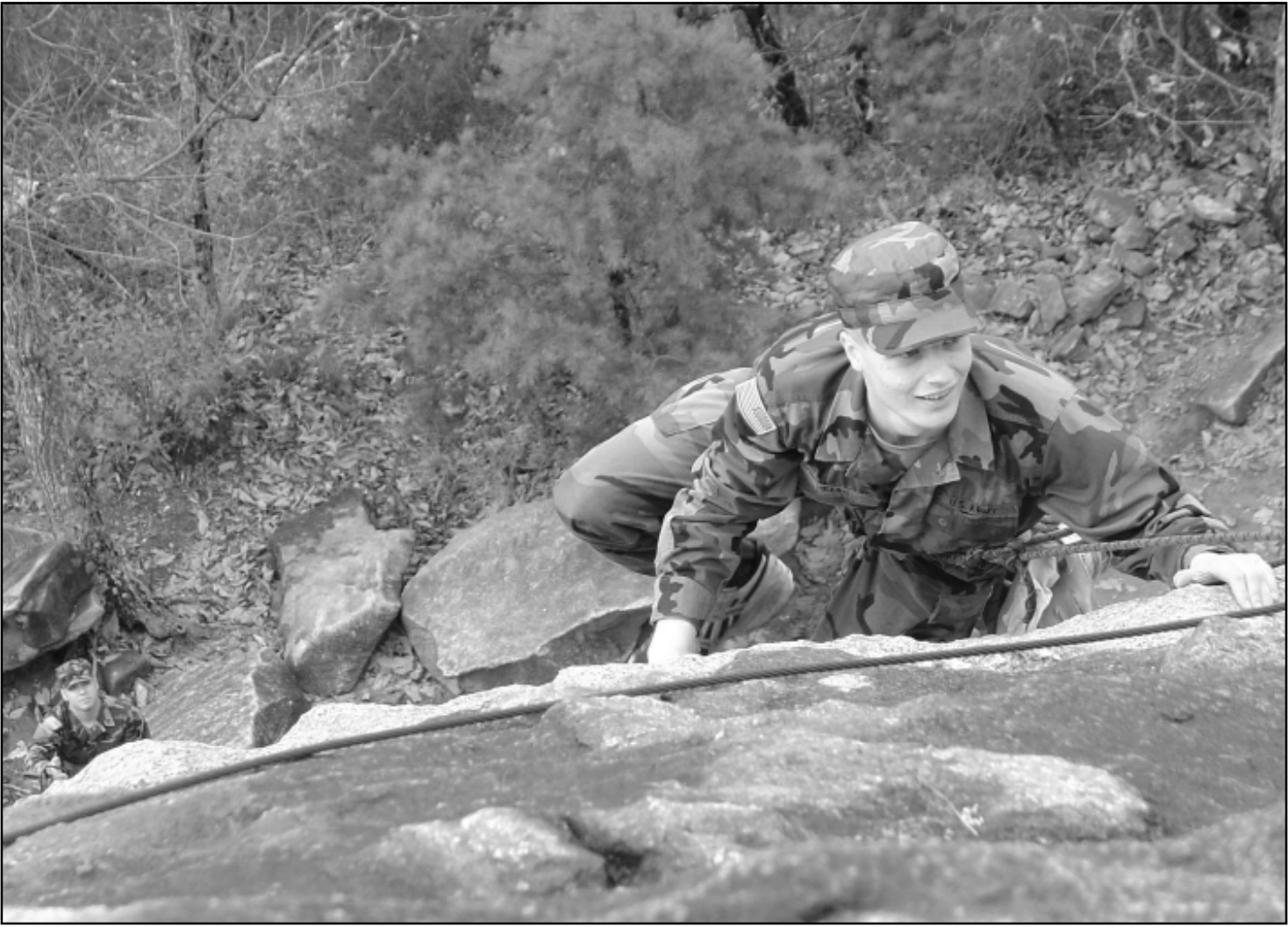


Photo by Staff Sgt. Jala Neufeld

A Company B, 447th Soldier makes his way up the side of Mount Yonah as a cadre member secures the safety line below. It is the first time the Initial Entry Training Mountain Excursion was held. Thirteen Soldiers participated.

Spc. Armando Monroig
Signal staff

Tuesday's cool night heated up quickly at Gym 3 from the get-go as the Advanced Noncommissioned Officer's Course team defeated the HHC 513th Knights 49 to 42 in exciting basketball action.

In the earlier part of the first half, the score was 12 to 10 with the Knights leading.

As George Hayes, coach and forward for ANCOC, attempted a three-pointer, he was fouled. He missed the attempt but made good on two out of three free-throws making it 14 to 10 with the Knights leading.

Throughout the course of the game, the action basket intensified as players on both sides battled for rebounds and aggressively attacked anyone attempting to drive the lane.

Halfway through the first period, the score 18-13 with ANCOC trailing. Hayes went for a rebound but was beaten by a Knight who cleared out with his elbows and sent him flying.

With two minutes remaining in the first half, ANCOC rallied back with a combination of good outside shooting, rebounding and defense, making the score 21-17 with the Knights still in the lead.

After a quick steal, ANCOC went on a fast-break.

Hayes attempted a strong drive to the basket for a lay-up but was pounded by a defender sending him slamming to the ground.

It took a few minutes for him to regain his composure but he recovered and nailed a free-throw tying the game 22

to 22 at half-time.

The second half kicked off where the first ended, with both teams not giving ground, trading baskets for much of the remainder of the game.

ANCOC scored two quick baskets, making it 24-22 and taking the lead, eventually widening the lead to 36-28. They maintained the lead for much of the second half but the Knights were not willing to give up as they kept the score close.

With six minutes to go in the game ANCOC increased their lead making it 40-30. As ANCOC continued to score, the Knights found themselves in a shooting slump.

With 1:45 remaining in the game the Knights nailed a big three-pointer from downtown making it 46-34 as they tried to rally a comeback.

As time ran out, the Knights continued scoring, cutting the lead but ANCOC held on to win 49-42.

Timothy Lowe, Knights coach and forward, was disappointed with the loss, especially since they led the first half but said his guys gave a good effort.

"We played decent," he said. "We're missing a couple of key players but we played well."

He added that ANCOC had a good team that played hard.

Hayes said his team's defensive efforts got their opponent out of their game plan

He said his team hit about 90 percent of their free-throws and that contributed to their success as well.

ANCOC's record goes to 2-2 while the Knights go to 1-3.



Photo by Spc. Armando Monroig

Charles Holmes, number 8 in white, attempts a field goal in Tuesday night's game.



Photos by Spc. Nicole Robus
Ameer Carminer (left), a member of DEFY, and Petty Officer 1st Class Roxanne Parrish, pick up a pile of leaves outside the Ronald McDonald House Saturday. The DEFY members were there as part of a community service project.

Youth help with chores at Ronald McDonald House

Spc. Nicole Robus
Signal military editor

Children in the Department of Defense program, Drug Education for Youth, got the chance to see what community service is all about.

Eleven members of DEFY along with seven leaders from the U.S. Navy stationed here set out to the Ronald McDonald House Saturday to help with some chores around the house.

Some of the children have never done community service before – one of the tasks the children have to complete in the DEFY program, said Petty Officer 2nd Class Sonya Robinson.

Some of the children helped rake leaves in the yard while the others were in the kitchen baking cookies for the families that stay in the house.

Along with helping with the chores, the group brought along some home-cooked food for the families.

Currently there are eight families staying at the house. “We can have up to 10 families at a time,” said Gary Stokes, weekend manager of the Ronald McDonald House.

“It is really appreciated to have the children come out here and volunteer and see what the house is like,” said Stokes.



Kim Kerlegan (left), and Anna Lisa Irby, members of DEFY, put cookies on the cookie sheet before baking them at the Ronald McDonald House Saturday.



Spectrum



73rd Ordnance Battalion...

...prepares
its warriors

Cornered, an 'insurgent' fights to the death against two Soldiers running through the Urban Operations lane of the 73rd Ordnance Battalion's three-day Warrior Training Exercise held at Range 40 Dec. 7-9. The Soldiers used MILES gear during the WTX, training geared toward adapting trainees to real-world combat scenarios such as in Iraq.

Photos by Spc. Armando Monroig



(Above) A Soldier takes aim at a silhouette with while using MILES gear during the reflexive fire training lane. (Above right) Staring intensely while on his watch, a Soldier pulls security while in a foxhole.



Spc. Armando Monroig
Signal staff

The 73rd Ordnance Battalion conducted a three-day Warrior Training Exercise Dec. 7-9 at Range 40.

Brig. Gen. Vincent Boles, Chief of Ordnance and commanding general of the Ordnance Center and schools, paid the trainees a visit.

The training focused on the new Warrior Ethos' 40 warrior tasks and nine battle drills that were derived from the Army's combat experience in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Thirty-seven Initial Entry Training Soldiers from the 35-series military occupational specialty participated in the round-robin, scenario driven training.

Soldiers ran through four different lanes: reflexive fire, urban operations, convoy operations, and dismounted operations. While running through the lanes, Soldiers encountered 'insurgents.'

Training included throwing inert hand grenades, clearing buildings during the day and at night using movement techniques, doing night patrols, and reacting to ambush.

"They learned the technical skills for shooting in close quarters combat," Sgt. 1st Class Orlando Rodrigues, Company A, 73rd Ord. Bn., the noncommissioned-officer-in-charge of the reflexive fire training lane.

The skills learned include shooting quickly on the move and maneuvering around walls, he said.

Soldiers used MILES gear to shoot at silhouette targets rigged with the same MILES gear at distances of 5, 10, 15 and 20 meters.

Drill sergeants were on

hand to assist Soldiers through the lanes, making corrections when necessary.

Pvt. Daniel Lawson, Company B, 73rd Ord. Bn., said the training was good, he learned a lot and that it will help him if deployed.

"A lot of fighting is close-up fighting, building-to-building, hand-to-hand," he said of combat in Iraq. "This training will help us a lot."

His battle buddy Pvt. Colt Cottingham, Company B, 73rd Ord. Bn., shared similar opinions about the training.

He said it's a higher level of training than that received at basic training, adding that "it's really good training that's going to help us in Iraq."

In addition Boles was there to see what the 73rd's standard of training is and to find out what additional resources, if any, are needed.

"The biggest thing we're doing, that I like seeing, is continuing the Soldierization process they began in basic training," said Boles. "I was very impressed with what I saw."

Boles agreed this type of training is key in preparing Soldiers for deployment to combat zones such as Iraq and Afghanistan.

"This is the most important thing they'll do," he said. "We have to put them in a situation and ruggedize them, and get them ramped up on the training scale before they get in a combat situation."

Boles said the 73rd is doing just that because the units these Soldiers will be joining don't have a lot of time to train them on these tasks.

"If we bring them into those units higher up the learning curve, they'll be better suited to help, participate and contribute," said Boles.



Soldiers stand guard at the check point entrance of training area 40. No one was allowed in or out without first clearing through a rigorous screening procedure.



Brig. Gen. Vincent Boles, Chief of Ordnance and commanding general of the Ordnance Center and School, looks at terrain table models of training lanes.